

What is claimed is:

1. A music distribution system in which music is distributed over a plurality of music channels to a number of users for playing by their user music equipment, wherein each music channel has an associated data stream containing information on a music program that is currently being broadcast on that music channel, the system comprising:

a first circuit in the user music equipment for obtaining the music program on a first of the music channels, wherein the music program on the first of the music channels is played by the user music equipment; and

a second circuit in the user music equipment for obtaining the music information on a second music program from the data stream associated with a second music channel while the first music program is being played by the user music equipment.

2. The system defined in claim 1 wherein:  
the second music channel is an analog music channel; and

the second circuit comprises:

a tuner for tuning to the second analog music channel; and

an extractor for extracting the music information from the second analog music channel.

3. The system defined in claim 1 wherein:  
the first music channel is a first digital music channel;

the second music channel is a second digital music channel; and

the second circuit comprises:

a tuner for tuning to a carrier frequency at which the first digital music channel and the second digital music channels are transmitted;

a packet filter for filtering out packets not carried in the first digital music channel and the second digital music channel based on one or more packet identifiers;

a digital channel selector for supplying packet identifiers for the first digital music channel and the second digital music channel to the packet filter; and

a decoder for decoding the music program on the first digital music channel and the music information on the second digital music channel.

4. The system defined in claim 1 wherein:  
the first music channel is a first digital music channel;

the second music channel is a second digital music channel; and

the first and second circuits further comprise:

a packet filter for filtering out packets based on one or more packet identifiers;

a digital channel selector for supplying packet identifiers that identify tracks of the first digital music channel and the second digital music channel to the packet filter; and

a decoder for decoding the music program on the first music channel and the music information on the second music channel; and

the first circuit further comprises a first tuner for tuning to the first digital music channel; and

the second circuit further comprises a second tuner for tuning to the second digital music channel.

5. The system defined in claim 1 further comprising an interactive music application implemented at least in part on the user music equipment, wherein:

the second circuit is directed by the interactive music application to obtain the music information on the second music program; and

the music information on the second music program is displayed by the user music equipment using the interactive music application.

6. The system defined in claim 1 further comprising an interactive music application implemented at least in part on the user music equipment, wherein:

the second music program is a favorite music program;

the second circuit is directed by the interactive music application to obtain the music information on the favorite music program; and

the music information on the favorite music program is displayed by the user music equipment using the interactive music application.

7. The system defined in claim 1 further comprising an interactive music application implemented at least in part on the user music equipment, wherein:

the music information on the second music program is displayed by the user music equipment using the interactive music application.

the second circuit is directed by the interactive television program guide to obtain the music information on the second music program; and

9. The system defined in claim 1 further comprising an interactive music application implemented at least in part on the user music equipment, wherein:

the music information on the second music program is displayed by the user music equipment

in a browse display using the interactive music application.

10. The system defined in claim 1 further comprising an interactive music application implemented at least in part on the user music equipment, wherein:

the second music program is a favorite music program;

the second circuit is directed by the interactive music application to obtain the music information on the favorite music program; and

the music information on the favorite music program is displayed by the user music equipment in a browse display using the interactive music application.

11. The system defined in claim 1 further comprising an interactive music application implemented at least in part on the user music equipment, wherein:

the second circuit is directed by the interactive music application to obtain the music information on the second music program; and

the music information on the second music program is displayed by the user music equipment in a music program listings screen using the interactive music application.

12. The system defined in claim 1 further comprising an interactive music application implemented at least in part on the user music equipment, wherein:

the second music program is a favorite music program;

the second circuit is directed by the interactive music application to obtain the music information on the favorite music program; and

the music information on the favorite music program is displayed by the user music equipment in a music program listings screen using the interactive music application.

13. The system defined in claim 1 further comprising an interactive music application implemented at least in part on the user music equipment, wherein:

the second circuit is directed by the interactive music application to obtain the music information on the second music program; and

the music information on the second music program is displayed by the user music equipment in a full music information screen using the interactive music application.

14. The system defined in claim 1 further comprising an interactive music application implemented at least in part on the user music equipment, wherein:

the second circuit is directed by the interactive music application to obtain the music information on the second music program; and

the music information on the second music program is displayed by the user music equipment in a full music information screen using the interactive music application in response to a user indicating a desire to view a full music information screen from a browse display.

15. The system defined in claim 1 further comprising an interactive music application implemented at least in part on the user music equipment, wherein:

the second circuit is directed by the interactive music application to obtain the music information on the second music program; and

the music information on the second music program is displayed by the user music equipment in a full music information screen using the interactive music application in response to a user indicating a desire to view a full music information screen from a music program listings screen.

16. The system defined in claim 1 further comprising an interactive music application implemented at least in part on the user music equipment, wherein:

the second circuit is directed by the interactive music application to obtain the music information on the second music program; and

the music information on the second music program is displayed by the user music equipment in a full music information screen using the interactive music application in response to a user indicating a desire to view a full music information screen while listening to the first music program.

17. The system defined in claim 1 further comprising an interactive music application implemented at least in part on the user music equipment, wherein:

the second circuit is directed by the interactive music application to obtain the music information on the second music program; and

the first circuit is directed by the interactive music application to obtain the second music program on the second of the music channels after the second circuit is directed by the interactive music application to obtain the music information on the second music program.

18. The system defined in claim 1 further comprising an interactive music application implemented at least in part on the user music equipment, wherein:

the second circuit is directed by the interactive music application to obtain the music information on the second music program;

the music information on the second music program is displayed by the user music equipment using the interactive music application; and

the interactive music application is configured to provide a user with the opportunity to order merchandise related to the second music program.

19. A television and music distribution system in which music programs are distributed over a plurality of music channels to a number of users for playing by their user music equipment, wherein each music channel has an associated data stream containing current music information on a music program that is currently being broadcast on that music channel, the system comprising:

a circuit in the user music equipment for sequentially gathering the current music information from each of the plurality of music channels; and



an interactive music application implemented at least in part on the user music equipment, wherein the current music information of each of the plurality of music channels is simultaneously displayed on the user music equipment using the music application.

20. A television and music distribution system in which music is distributed over a plurality of music channels to a number of users for playing by their user music equipment, wherein each music channel has an associated data stream containing information on a plurality of music programs, the system comprising:

a first circuit in the user music equipment for obtaining a first music program carried on a first of the plurality of music channels, wherein the first music program is played by the user music equipment; and

a second circuit in the user music equipment for obtaining the music information on a second music program from the data stream associated with a second music channel while the first music program is being played by the user music equipment.

21. The system defined in claim 20 further comprising an interactive music application implemented at least in part on the user music equipment, wherein:

the second circuit is directed by the interactive music application to obtain the music information on the second music program; and



the second music program is not carried on the second music channel when the interactive music application directs the second circuit to obtain the music information on the second music channel; and

the music information on the second music program and how long until the second music program is carried on the second music channel is displayed by the user music equipment in a browse display using the interactive music application while the first music program is being played.

25. The system defined in claim 20 further comprising an interactive music application implemented at least in part on the user music equipment, wherein:

the second music program is not carried on the second music channel when the interactive music application directs the second circuit to obtain the music information on the second music channel; and

the music information on the second music program is displayed by the user music equipment in a music program listings screen using the interactive music application while the first music program is being played.

26. The system defined in claim 20 further comprising an interactive music application implemented at least in part on the user music equipment, wherein:

the second music program is not carried on the second music channel when the interactive music application directs the second circuit to obtain the music information on the second music channel; and

the music information on the second music program and how long until the second music program is carried on the second music channel is displayed by the user music equipment in a music program listings screen using the interactive music application while the first music program is being played.

27. The system defined in claim 20 further comprising an interactive music application implemented at least in part on the user music equipment, wherein:

the second circuit is directed by the interactive music application to obtain the music information on a second music program; and

the music information on the second music program is displayed by the user music equipment in a full music information screen using the interactive music application in response to a user indicating a desire to view a full music information screen.

28. The system defined in claim 20 further comprising an interactive music application implemented at least in part on the user music equipment, wherein:

the second circuit is directed by the interactive music application to obtain the music information on the second music program;

the music information on the second music program is displayed by the user music equipment using the interactive music application; and

29. A television and music distribution system in which music is distributed over a plurality of music channels to a number of users for playing by their user music equipment, wherein each music channel has an associated data stream containing information on a plurality of music programs, the system comprising:

an interactive music application implemented at least in part on the user music equipment, wherein:

the music information on the second music program is displayed by the user music equipment using the interactive music application while the first music program is being played by the user music equipment.

30. The system defined in claim 29 wherein the music information on the second music program is displayed in a browse display by the user music



first music program is being played by the user music equipment.

34. The system defined in claim 33 wherein:  
the second music channel is an analog music channel; and

the second means for obtaining comprises a means for tuning to the second analog music channel and extracting the music information from the second analog music channel.

35. The system defined in claim 33 wherein:  
the first music channel is a first digital music channel;

the second music channel is a second digital music channel; and

the second means for obtaining comprises a means for tuning to a carrier frequency at which the first digital music channel and the second digital music channels are transmitted;

a means for filtering out packets not carried in the first digital music channel and the second digital music channel; and

a means for decoding the music program on the first digital music channel and the music information on the second digital music channel.

36. The system defined in claim 33 wherein:  
the music programs and music information carried on each of the plurality of music channels are carried in packets;

the first music channel is a first digital music channel;

the second music channel is a second digital music channel; and

the first and second means for obtaining further comprise:

means for filtering out packets not carried in the first and second music channels; and

means for decoding the music program on the first music channel and the music information on the second music channel; and

the first means for obtaining further comprises a first means for tuning to the first digital music channel; and

the second means for obtaining further comprises a second means for tuning to the second digital music channel.

37. The system defined in claim 33 further comprising:

means for directing the second means for obtaining to obtain the music information on the second music program using an interactive music application implemented on the user music equipment; and

means for displaying the music information on the second music program using the interactive music application.

38. The system defined in claim 33 wherein the second music program is a favorite music program, and the system further comprises:



means for directing the second means for obtaining to obtain the music information on the favorite music program using an interactive music application implemented at least in part on the user music equipment; and

means for displaying the music information on the favorite music program using the interactive music application.

39. The system defined in claim 33 further comprising:

means for directing the second means for obtaining to obtain the music information on the second music program from an Internet service system using an interactive music application implemented at least in part on the user music equipment; and

means for displaying the music information on the second music program using the interactive music application.

40. The system defined in claim 33 further comprising:

means for directing the second means for obtaining to obtain the music information on the second music program using an interactive music application integrated into an interactive television program guide implemented at least in part on the user music equipment; and

means for displaying the music information on the second music program using the interactive television program guide.

41. The system defined in claim 33 further comprising:

means for directing the second means for obtaining to obtain the music information on a second music program using an interactive music application implemented at least in part on the user music equipment; and

means for displaying the music information on the second music program in a browse display using the interactive music application.

42. The system defined in claim 33 further comprising:

means for directing the second means for obtaining to obtain the music information on a second music program using an interactive music application implemented at least in part on the user music equipment, wherein the second music program is a favorite music program; and

means for displaying the music information on the favorite music program in a browse display using the interactive music application.

43. The system defined in claim 33 further comprising:

means for directing the second means for obtaining to obtain the music information on a second music program using an interactive music application implemented at least in part on the user music equipment; and

means for displaying the music information on the second music program in a music

program listings screen using the interactive music application.

44. The system defined in claim 33 further comprising:

means for directing the second means for obtaining to obtain the music information on a second music program using an interactive music application implemented at least in part on the user music equipment, wherein the second music program is a favorite music program; and

means for displaying the music information on the favorite music program in a music program listings screen using the interactive music application.

45. The system defined in claim 33 further comprising:

means for directing the second means for obtaining to obtain the music information on a second music program using an interactive music application implemented at least in part on the user music equipment; and

means for displaying the music information on the favorite music program in a full music information screen using the interactive music application.

46. The system defined in claim 33 further comprising:

means for directing the second means for obtaining to obtain the music information on a second



means for displaying the music information on the favorite music program in a full music information screen using the interactive music application in response to a user indicating a desire to view a full music information screen while listening to the first music program.

49. The system defined in claim 33 further comprising:

means using an interactive music application implemented at least in part on the user music equipment for directing the second means for obtaining to obtain the music information on the second music program; and

means using the interactive music application for directing the first means for obtaining to obtain the second music program on the second of the music channels after the second means for obtaining is directed by the means for directing the second means for obtaining to obtain the music information on the second music program.

50. The system defined in claim 33 further comprising:

means for directing the second means for obtaining to obtain the music information on the second music program using an interactive music application implemented on the user music equipment;

means for displaying the music information on the second music program using the interactive music application; and





channel when the second music program is not carried on the second music channel; and

means for displaying the music information on the second music program in a browse display using the interactive music application while the first music program is being played.

56. The system defined in claim 52 further comprising:

means using an interactive music application implemented at least in part on the user music equipment for directing the second means to obtain the music information on the second music channel when the second music program is not carried on the second music channel; and

means for displaying the music information on the second music program and how long until the second music program is carried on the second music channel in a browse display using the interactive music application while the first music program is being played.

57. The system defined in claim 52 further comprising:

means using an interactive music application implemented at least in part on the user music equipment for directing the second means to obtain the music information on the second music channel when the second music program is not carried on the second music channel; and

means for displaying the music information on the second music program in a music



program listings screen using the interactive music application while the first music program is being played.

58. The system defined in claim 52 further comprising:

means using an interactive music application implemented at least in part on the user music equipment for directing the second means to obtain the music information on the second music channel when the second music program is not carried on the second music channel; and

means for displaying the music information on the second music program and how long until the second music program is carried on the second music channel in a music program listings screen using the interactive music application while the first music program is being played.

59. The system defined in claim 52 further comprising:

means using an interactive music application implemented at least in part on the user music equipment for directing the second means to obtain the music information on a second music program; and

means for displaying the music information on the second music program in a full music information screen using the interactive music application in response to a user indicating a desire to view a full music information screen while the first music program is being played.

60. The system defined in claim 52 further comprising:

means using an interactive music application implemented at least in part on the user music equipment for directing the second means to obtain the music information on the second music program;

means for displaying the music information on the second music program using the interactive music application; and

means for providing a user with the opportunity to order merchandise related to the second music program.

61. A television and music distribution system in which music is distributed over a plurality of music channels to a number of users for playing by their user music equipment, wherein each music channel has an associated data stream containing information on a plurality of music programs, the system comprising:

means for obtaining a first music program carried on a first of the plurality of music channels and for obtaining the music information on a second music program from the data stream associated with the first music channel while the first music program is being played by the user music equipment;

means using an interactive music application implemented at least in part on the user music equipment for directing the means for obtaining to obtain the music information on the second music program; and

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means for displaying the music information on the second music program using the interactive music application while the first music program is being played by the user music equipment.

62. The system defined in claim 61 wherein the means for displaying the music information on the second music program comprises means for displaying the music information and the second music program in a browse display using the interactive music application while the first music program is being played by the user music equipment.

63. The system defined in claim 61 wherein the means for displaying the music information on the second music program comprises means for displaying the music information and the second music program in a music program listings screen using the interactive music application while the first music program is being played by the user music equipment.

64. The system defined in claim 61 wherein the means for displaying the music information on the second music program comprises means for displaying the music information and the second music program in a full music information screen using the interactive music application while the first music program is being played by the user music equipment.

65. A method in a television and music distribution system in which music is distributed over a plurality of music channels to a number of users for

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playing by their user music equipment, wherein each music channel has an associated data stream containing information on a music program that is currently being broadcast on that music channel, the method comprising:

- obtaining the music program on a first of the music channels;

- playing the music program on the first of the music channels using the user music equipment;
- and

- obtaining the music information on a second music program from the data stream associated with a second music channel while the first music program is being played by the user music equipment.

66. The method defined in claim 65 wherein:  
the second music channel is an analog music channel; and

- the method further comprises:

- tuning to the second analog music channel; and

- extracting the music information from the second analog music channel.

67. The method defined in claim 65 wherein:  
the first music channel is a first digital music channel;

- the second music channel is a second digital music channel; and

- the method further comprises:

- tuning to a carrier frequency at which the first digital music channel and the second digital music channels are transmitted;

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filtering out packets not carried in the first digital music channel and the second digital music channel; and

decoding the music program on the first digital music channel and the music information on the second digital music channel.

68. The method defined in claim 65 wherein:  
the first music channel is a first digital music channel;

the second music channel is a second digital music channel; and

the method further comprises:

filtering out packets not carried in the first digital music channel and the second digital music channel based on one or more packet identifiers;

decoding the music program on the first music channel and the music information on the second music channel; and

tuning to the first digital music channel; and

tuning to the second digital music channel.

69. The method defined in claim 65 wherein:  
obtaining the music information on a second music program comprises using an interactive music application implemented at least in part on the user music equipment to obtain the music information on the second music program; and

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displaying the music information on the second music program on the user music equipment using the interactive music application.

70. The method defined in claim 65 wherein:  
the second music program is a favorite music program;

obtaining the music information on a second music program comprises using an interactive music application implemented at least in part on the user music equipment to obtain the music information on the favorite music program; and

the method further comprises displaying the music information on the favorite music program on the user music equipment using the interactive music application.

71. The method defined in claim 65 wherein:  
obtaining the music information on a second music program comprises using an interactive music application implemented at least in part on the user music equipment to obtain the music information on the second music program from an Internet service system; and

the method further comprises displaying the music information on the second music program on the user music equipment using the interactive music application.

72. The method defined in claim 65 wherein:  
obtaining the music information on a second music program comprises using an interactive

the method further comprises displaying the music information on the second music program on the user music equipment using the interactive television program guide.

the method further comprises displaying the music information on the second music program on the user music equipment in a browse display using the interactive music application.

obtaining the music information on a second music program comprises obtaining the music information on the favorite music program using an interactive music application implemented at least in part on the user music equipment; and

the method further comprises displaying the music information on the favorite music program on the user music equipment in a browse display using the interactive music application.

75. The method defined in claim 65 wherein:  
obtaining the music information on a  
second music program comprises obtaining the music  
information on the second music program using an  
interactive music application implemented at least in  
part on the user music equipment; and

76. The method defined in claim 65 wherein:  
the second music program is a favorite  
music program;

the method further comprises displaying the music information on the favorite music program on the user music equipment in a music program listings screen using the interactive music application.

the method further comprises displaying the music information on the second music program on



the user music equipment in a full music information screen using the interactive music application.

78.. The method defined in claim 65 wherein:  
obtaining the music information on a  
second music program comprises obtaining the music  
information on the second music program using an  
interactive music application implemented at least in  
part on the user music equipment; and

the method further comprises displaying the music information on the second music program on the user music equipment in a full music information screen using the interactive music application in response to a user indicating a desire to view a full music information screen from a browse display.

79. The method defined in claim 65 wherein:  
obtaining the music information on a  
second music program comprises obtaining the music  
information on the second music program using an  
interactive music application implemented at least in  
part on the user music equipment; and

the method further comprises displaying the music information on the second music program on the user music equipment in a full music information screen using the interactive music application in response to a user indicating a desire to view a full music information screen from a music program listings screen.

80. The method defined in claim 65 wherein:

obtaining the music information on a second music program comprises obtaining the music information on the second music program using an interactive music application implemented at least in part on the user music equipment; and

the method further comprises displaying the music information on the second music program on the user music equipment in a full music information screen using the interactive music application in response to a user indicating a desire to view a full music information screen while listening to the first music program.

81. The method defined in claim 65 wherein:

obtaining the music information on a second music program comprises obtaining the music information on the second music program using an interactive music application implemented at least in part on the user music equipment; and the method further comprises:

displaying the music information on the second music program on the user music equipment using the interactive music application; and

providing a user with an opportunity to order merchandise related to the second music program.

82. A method in a television and music distribution system in which music programs are distributed over a plurality of music channels to a number of users for playing by their user music equipment, wherein each music channel has an associated data stream containing current music information on a

music program that is currently being broadcast on that music channel, the method comprising:

sequentially gathering the current music information from each of the plurality of music channels; and

simultaneously displaying the current music information of each of the plurality of music channels on the user music equipment using the music application using the interactive music application implemented on the user music equipment.

83. A method in a television and music distribution system in which music is distributed over a plurality of music channels to a number of users for playing by their user music equipment, wherein each music channel has an associated data stream containing information on a plurality of music programs, the method comprising the steps of:

obtaining a first music program carried on a first of the plurality of music channels, wherein the first music program is played by the user music equipment; and

obtaining the music information on a second music program from the data stream associated with a second music channel while the first music program is being played by the user music equipment.

84. The method defined in claim 83 further comprising:

using an interactive music application implemented at least in part on the user music

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displaying the music information on the second music program using the interactive music application.

85. The method defined in claim 83 further comprising:

using an interactive music application implemented at least in part on the user music equipment to direct the obtaining of the music information on the second music program from an Internet service system; and

displaying the music information on the second music program using the interactive music application.

86. The method defined in claim 83 further comprising:

using an interactive music application implemented at least in part on the user music equipment to direct the obtaining of the music information on the second music channel when the second music program is not carried on the second music channel; and

displaying the music information on the second music program in a browse display using the interactive music application while the first music program is being played.

87. The method defined in claim 83 further comprising:

using an interactive music application implemented at least in part on the user music equipment to direct the obtaining of the music information on the second music channel when the second music program is not carried on the second music channel; and

displaying the music information on the second music program and how long until the second music program is carried on the second music channel in a browse display using the interactive music application while the first music program is being played.

88. The method defined in claim 83 further comprising:

using an interactive music application implemented at least in part on the user music equipment to direct the obtaining of the music information on the second music channel when the second music program is not carried on the second music channel; and

displaying the music information on the second music program in a music program listings screen using the interactive music application while the first music program is being played.

89. The method defined in claim 83 further comprising:

using an interactive music application implemented at least in part on the user music equipment to direct the obtaining of the music information on the second music channel when the second

music program is not carried on the second music channel; and

displaying the music information on the second music program and how long until the second music program is carried on the second music channel in a music program listings screen using the interactive music application while the first music program is being played.

90. The method defined in claim 83 further comprising:

using an interactive music application implemented at least in part on the user music equipment to direct the obtaining of the music information on a second music program; and

displaying the music information on the second music program in a full music information screen using the interactive music application in response to a user indicating a desire to view a full music information screen while the first music program is being played.

91. The method defined in claim 83 further comprising:

using an interactive music application implemented at least in part on the user music equipment to direct the obtaining of the music information on the second music program;

displaying the music information on the second music program using the interactive music application; and

providing a user with the opportunity to order merchandise related to the second music program.

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92. A method in a television and music distribution system in which music is distributed over a plurality of music channels to a number of users for playing by their user music equipment, wherein each music channel has an associated data stream containing information on a plurality of music programs, the method comprising the steps of:

obtaining a first music program carried on a first of the plurality of music channels and for obtaining the music information on a second music program from the data stream associated with the first music channel while the first music program is being played by the user music equipment;

using an interactive music application implemented at least in part on the user music equipment to direct the obtaining of the music information on the second music program; and

displaying the music information on the second music program using the interactive music application while the first music program is being played by the user music equipment.

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93. The method defined in claim 92 wherein displaying the music information on the second music program comprises displaying the music information and the second music program in a browse display using the interactive music application while the first music program is being played by the user music equipment.

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95. The method defined in claim 92 wherein displaying the music information on the second music program comprises displaying the music information and the second music program in a full music information screen using the interactive music application while the first music program is being played by the user music equipment.